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WEATHER CONDITIONS NEAR ISSYK-KUL' LAKE, SOCHI;
NEW METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS IN TURKMEN SSR

STORMY ROAD CONNECTS FRUNZE, ISSYK-KUL' LAKE -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 17 Aug 51

The road from Frunze to Issyk-Kul' Lake runs through Buamskoye Gorge, which is almost 100 kilometers long. It is seldom possible to negotiate this gorge without encountering the ulan, a very strong sandstorm wind which reaches 10- to 12-ball velocity.

Several times each week, the ulan rushes through Buamskoye Gorge, raising clouds of sand and gravel. Emerging from the eastern end of the gorge, the wind blows towards the lake. Toward the ulan, from the lake, an east wind called the santash is usually blowing. When the two winds meet, a violent storm results. The blue water instantly becomes lead-black and the entire large lake churns, resembling a huge boiling pot.

The western shore of Issyk-Kul' Lake, at the exit from Buamskoye Gorge, was traditionally a temporary stopping place of people who transported freight on horses into the central Tyan'-Shan' Mountain and the Issyk-Kul' areas. The ulan was a constant source of distress to them, and no one ever thought of establishing permanent residence there, especially because nothing would grow on the sandy soil.

But since the only direct route to the lake and the central Tya '-Shan' area passes here, the Soviets decided to settle this barren shore.

Rybach'ye village stands directly on the lake shore. Its streets are lined with new houses. Industrial and welfare establishments include the timber floating office, two construction administrations, alcohol factory, a timber trading yard, the Kirgiz Consumers Union, the passenger bus and taxi park, nursing home, and the resort base serving the lake resorts of Ak-Su, Dzhet'y-Oguz, Koy-Sara, Cholpon-Ata, Issyk-Kul', and Tamga. Rybach'ye is being built up, and is becoming a permanent city.

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SNOWY MOUNTAINS FLANK SOCHI -- Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 26 Sep 51

In September, the sun shines brightly on the Black Sea shore at Sochi. But only 35-40 kilometers from Sochi, on the slopes of the Great Caucasus Mountains and its foothills, winter is already setting in. Snows come early and become deep there. The Caucasus in the longitude of the snowiest places in the Soviet Union. In the course of the winter, up to 8 meters of snow fall there.

CLAIM MID-17TH CENTURY RUSSIAN DISCOVERY OF KURILE ISLANDS -- Yerevan, Kommunist, 10 Oct 51

At a meeting of the Geographical Society USSR on 8 October 1951, Candidate of Historical Sciences I. I. Ogryzko, docent at Leningrad State University imeni A. A. Zhdanov, spoke on the subject, "Discovery of the Kurile Islands by Russians."

The speaker stated that old records found in the Central State Archives prove that the Kurile Islands were not discovered at the beginning of the 18th century as thought up to now but in the middle of the 17th century. Their discovery is associated with an expedition of the renowned Russian navigator Semen Dezhnev. The organizer of this expedition, Fedor Alekseyev, who discovered Kamchatka in 1648, was also the discoverer of the Kurile Islands 2 years later.

NEW METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS BUILT IN TURKMEN SSR -- Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 27 Nov 51

The Turkmen Local Administration of the Hydrometeorological Service USSR has begun organizing meteorological stations along the route of the Main Turkmen Canal. The first station was opened in the central portion of the route near Yekedzhe Well. The personnel operating the station will study meteorological peculiarities of the route and their influence on the economics of new agricultural and industrial areas in addition to the climate and weather of the area.

Construction of a second station near Yaskhan Lake is being completed.

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